



# CCIA convenes to Boulder law school

By **Jeremy Wade Shockley**  
*The Southern Ute Drum*

Leaders from the Colorado Ute tribes gathered on Friday, March 23 with state officials for a Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs meeting in the Wolf Law Building at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Key representatives included Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia, CCIA Executive Secretary Ernest House Jr., and members of the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute tribal councils. Discussions covered a broad range of issues, including the Fort Lewis College tuition waiver, the Native American language bill, and tribal fishing rights.

Garcia emphasized that the FLC tuition waiver, which allows Native American students to attend the school tuition-free, was not in danger, as it is an obligation held by treaty. Recent attempts at legislation would have reduced the state's reimbursement to the school from the full price of tuition to the actual cost of education.

"The question is who is going to pay that tuition. The obligation [to pay] is not in question," he said. "No one is suggesting that the commitment to pay for Native students is going away."

House noted that the Native American language bill, which would allow tribal elders and fluent speakers of tribal languages to teach those languages in public schools without teaching licenses, was expected to pass in the coming weeks without opposition. The bill sailed through a state House of Representatives education committee with unanimous approval on Wednesday, March 21.

House and others shared positive comments regarding the ceremony to install Ute flags in the state Capitol the previous day.

"Thunder rolled through the Capitol yesterday," Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council Member Manuel Hart said of the songs sung by Southern Ute Drum group 12 Gauge.

"I couldn't be more pleased and proud to have those flags hanging

outside [our office]," Garcia said.

Southern Ute Council Lady Pathimi GoodTracks shared recent success stories from the tribe's efforts in education and environmental protection, which included accreditation of the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approval to allow the tribe's Air Quality Program to manage its own major source permitting program, both hailed as firsts in Indian Country.

Hart proposed a fishing agreement in the spirit of the existing Brunot hunting agreement, to allow greater fishing access across the State of Colorado to enrolled tribal members free of charge.

Southern Ute Council Lady Joycelyn Dutchie extended her congratulations to Ernest House Jr. for his reappointment as executive secretary of the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs.

Phil Weiser, dean of the law school, introduced Indian Law Fellow Daniel Cordalis, a member of the Navajo Nation and

two-time recipient of the state's Native American Scholars scholarship funded by license plate sales.

"Opportunities through the school have been invaluable," said Cordalis, a former Durango resident.

"We are deeply committed to tribal law within our community," Weiser said. "Getting students from Native American communities and Indian tribes is a priority, and so is getting them scholarships."

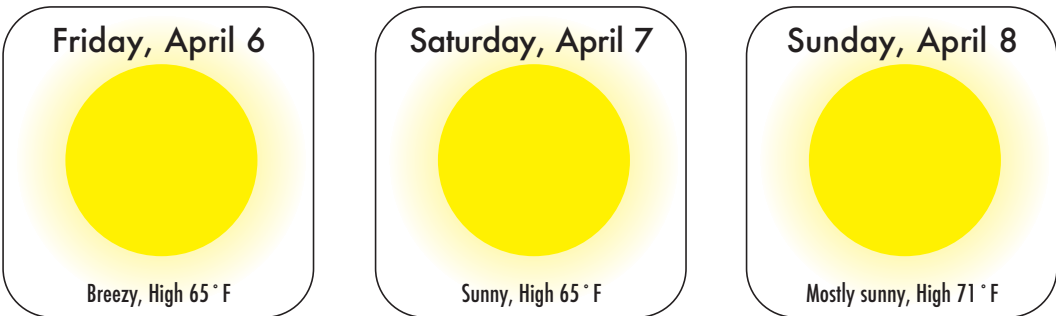
The CCIA members are slated to reconvene in Towaoc, Colo., during the spring Bear Dance.

*The Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs meeting took place in the Wolf Law Building of the University of Colorado at Boulder on Friday, March, 23. Executive Secretary Ernest House Jr. recognized outgoing CCIA member Annie Lee with a Pendleton blanket. Members from each Colorado Ute tribe had an opportunity to voice their concerns before Colorado Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia.*

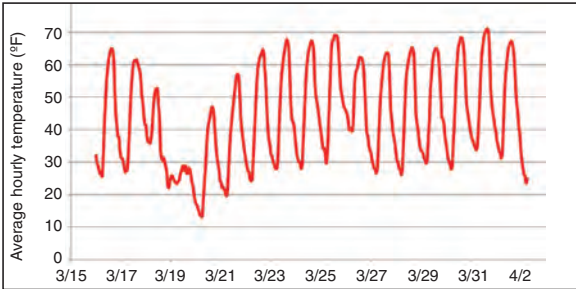


photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

## Local Ignacio Weather

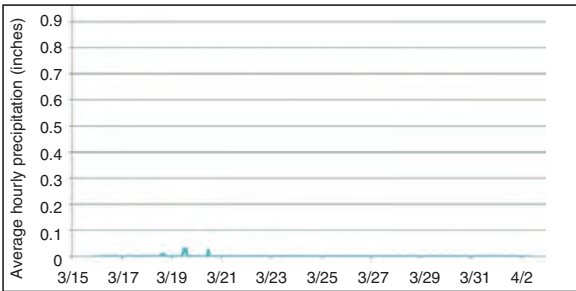


Weather data for March 15 – April 2



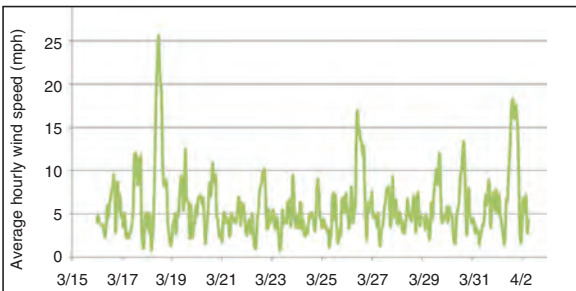
### Temperature

High	71.0°F
Low	13.1°F
Average	43.4°F
Average last year	41.8°F



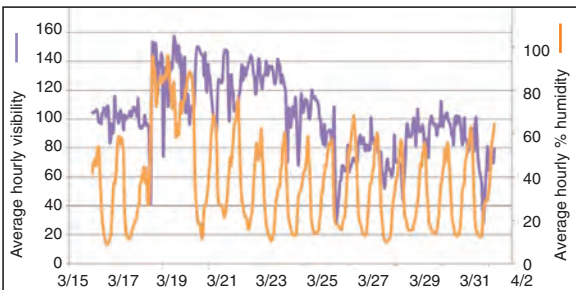
### Precipitation

Total	0.15 inches
Total last year	0.30 inches



### Wind speed

Average	5.8 mph
Minimum	0.8 mph
Maximum	25.6 mph



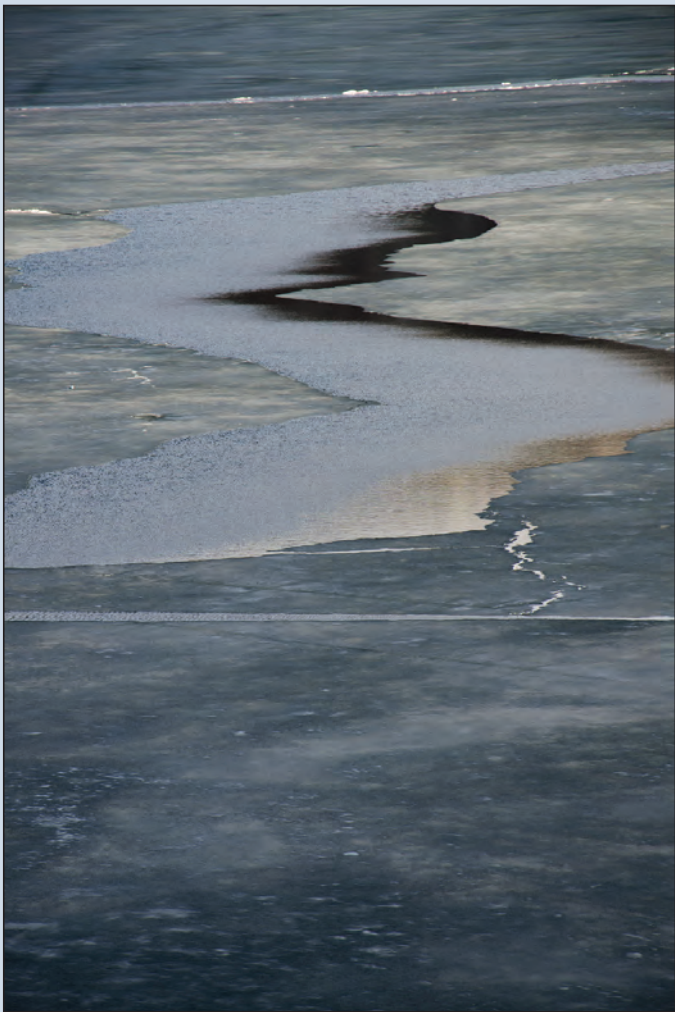
### Visibility & humidity

Avg. visibility	101.4
Avg. humidity	37.9%

Air quality  
Good



## Vallecito Lake thaws



On Friday, March 30, warmer temperatures set in for the weekend. The ice sheet on Vallecito Lake began to recede, opening up the season for fisherman across the region to begin their annual ritual.

photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM